

HCS HB 994 -- POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

SPONSOR: Bondon

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on State and Local Governments by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill requires the State Auditor to audit any political subdivision of the state if requested to do so by a petition only if it is submitted by a person who resides or owns real property within the boundaries or area of service of the political subdivision, the petition is submitted within one year from requesting the petition, and it is signed by the required percent of qualified voters of the subdivision.

Any person who has signed or allegedly signed the petition may submit a sworn statement to the State Auditor that he did not sign the petition or that he or she wishes to rescind the signature. The statement must be made within 10 days from submission of the petition to the State Auditor. If the statement is timely filed, the signature must be withdrawn and must not count toward the required threshold.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that persons who are disgruntled by the actions of a political subdivision have used this process to cause financial harm to the political subdivision, without cause.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bondon; Missouri Municipal League; Missouri Rural Water Association; and Missouri Association of Counties.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.